[101 cont.]

223 911 are used as a head decoration. Bird darts with blunt wooden points are used to shoot wild fowl (Fig. 30) (8).

8. Joest, ibid., and pp. 372, 391. Dillon, pp. 170, 273. Lesson, Revue d'Anthropologie, V, p. 270. For Vanikoro, Dillon, p. 181, also lists chickens among the foods that are steamed in the oven.

252

276 Besides the foods, the luxuries must also be mentioned, the most important of which on the entire [102] group is the areca nut enjoyed with the leaf of the betel pepper and pulverized coral-lime. It was being used even at the time of the Spanish visits (1) [Figs. 31 and 32 appear here] and had

[171]

1. Dalrymple, pp. 78, 194. Also mentioned by Labillardière, p. 255. Dillon, pp. 276, 302 (on pp. 303 and 308, he mentions enormous enlargements of the two front teeth of the lower jaw in the case of a sorcerer on Ndeni and declares the substance to be "Cement formed by the lime and betelnut juice" [cited in English]; the owner sold him one of the teeth). D'Urville,

[254]

Fig. 30. Bird Arrows (R.-J.-M. 3695, 3693, 3696, and 3694, Joest Coll.); 98, 92, 95, and 91 cm. long. 1 and 2. With square points. 3 and 4. With round points.

[114 cont.]

436 kind of long strap made of fibers wound around two stout cords -- in part with two additional lighter central cords -- as a base. This strap is covered along its entire length with overlapping tile-shaped scales of pigeon feathers, and on the upper side of these [825] scales are pasted the delicate red feathers of Trichoglossus massena,

Fig. 43. Feather money (Berlin VI 16005, Joest Coll.). Total length 7.135 meters, width 4.2 cm., width of bark spirals 16 and 18 cm.

•[223] a kind of parrot. The birds are caught with lime twigs deep in the bush, but before that the hunter may not eat anything hot or fat (4). The Berlin piece of money shows a rhombic black and

4. Codrington, loc. cit.

white plaiting in the middle of the underside, on the edges of which are two tufts of fibers. The ends show sewing with pieces of palm leaves and a plaited cord that comes to a point and ends in tufts of fibers and two strings. The latter are fastened to the two bark spirals on which the money is wound. Often [115] pieces of wood, carved in a variety of ways and decorated with Coix chains, are also fastened to the ends of the money. Instead [237 778] of them there may be pigs' teeth or special stones that have a religious significance and are said to be more highly prized than money itself (1).

/188 cont./

226 [In the coral along the shore one often sees bowl-shaped depressions in which plants are pounded, the juice of which is used to poison the fish in the fissures of the coral reefs" (4).]

4. [Speiser, Südsee, p. 297.]

225 [On the Reef Islands dolphins and turtles are encircled by boats and driven onto shore. The one who leaps into the water and turns the turtle upside down is entitled to the thickest [301] portion of the shell, which is used for making nose rings; the [825] other parts of the turtle are distributed by the chief (5).]

5. [Girieud and Herrenschmidt, p. 106.]

224 Pigs are often caught in nets (Basel V 1996), which are knotted out of strong ropes of coconut fiber. The nets are set up where the pigs usually pass and the animals are driven into them (6).

6. [Speiser, Südsee, p. 297.]

● 223 [In catching birds -- namely, those with the red feathers [836] that are made into money-rolls -- /189/ the hunter covers him- [825] self with leaves and imitates the bird's call in order to lure his victim onto the lime-twig (1).]

1. [O'Ferrall, section "Historical Sketch" (= Coombe, p. 189). See also below, p. 87 , footnote 3. -- O'Ferrall (= Coombe, p. 187) also mentions the bird arrows shown in Ethn., I, p. 101.]

3:Davenport E-5 (1958-1960)1962
ON13 Santa Cruz ON13

436 463 plies the red color of the money. The second makes individual platelets of pigeon feathers and decorates each with a band of the red down. The third assembles the platelets by binding them on two cords to form a belt.

● 223 [825] The bird on which the entire system depends is a small scarlet-colored honey eater (*Myzomela cardinalis*) of the rain forest. The bird snarer makes portable perches covered with the sticky latex of a forest tree and fastens at the top of each either a live decoy of the species or a flower that the honey eater likes. Hanging a number of these perches in adjacent trees, he shields himself behind a blind of betel palm leaves and attracts birds into the area by chirping with a whistle made from a tree bud. Investigating the flower or the decoy, the honey eaters approach the sticky perch and are caught by their wings or feet. The bird snarer plucks the red down from the birds' breasts, heads and backs; he does not deliberately kill them in the process, but they usually die as a result. [804] In the half-shell of a coconut he packs tightly the down of 10 birds, and this is the basic unit in which he deals.

[287] The platelet maker usually secures his

[497(c)]

3:Davenport E-6 (1958-1960)1962
ON13 Santa Cruz ON13

287 own pigeon feathers, shooting the gray
223 Pacific pigeon (*Ducula pacifica*) with
825 bow and arrow. With a mucilage made
381 from the sap of the paper mulberry
824 (*Broussonetia papyrifera*), he glues the
804 feathers together into the flexible platelet. The flat surface of a wooden platen, usually about 2¾ by 1¾ inches, serves as a gauge for fashioning each platelet in the proper size. Using the same glue, the craftsman tacks a half-inch band of red down from the honey eaters along one edge of the gray platelet. A piece of currency 436 requires about 1,500 platelets, overlapped like shingles to expose only the band of red feathers. Since one 10-bird packet of down is enough for 50 platelets, about 300 honey eaters are required for a standard piece of new currency.

The platelets are passed on to the currency binder, who collects and prepares the other necessary materials: 824 long-staple fibers from the bark of a rain-
237 forest tree (*Gnetum gnemon*), colored seeds for decoration and pieces of turtle shell. He stretches two three-ply fiber cords from a large stump to a springy sapling set in the ground about five feet away, and he spaces the cords about

[f 97 (D)]

142
223
[482]

Si:Davenport F-5 (1959-1960)1962
ON13 Santa Cruz ON13

BIRD SNARER crouches by his decoy-baited perch and whistles to attract honey eaters, which are trapped by latex on the perch.

STRING OF LIVE BIRDS is brought back to the village. The red down will be plucked and then passed on to the platelet maker.

[498 (A)]

458 quantity of Australian money within the
177 Santa Cruz group has caused a precipi-
tate fall in its value in terms of local
[435] goods. Once a shilling bought 10 pounds
of native tobacco; now it buys half a
[438] pound. During the same period, in an
effort to increase copra production by
[648] channeling more islanders into planta-
tion work, the colonial administration
has taken steps that tend to depress
interisland and intervillage trade in do-
mestic products. Less feather currency
[287] is needed and less is being produced.
At the moment there are only five men
on Santa Cruz who bind currency,
whereas a decade ago there were more
[583] than a dozen. Yet marriages go on as
before, and men still refuse to marry off
their daughters without receiving the
traditional red-feather payment. In-
deed, there is no area of the islands'
economy in which confidence in the
feather currency has been shaken. The
[465] craft and agricultural specialists still
demand red-feather money for their
best products.

With the value of feather currency
rising as it becomes scarcer and
that of Australian money dropping as it
becomes more abundant, the market
[436] price of feather currency in Australian
pounds has increased nearly 20 times
in the past 15 years. Although it is rec-
ognized that 25 Australian pounds is the
appropriate par value for a new piece
of feather money, it takes considerably
more than that to induce the currency
[223] specialists to turn one out. This is, to
[825] be sure, not true in the case of the bird
snarers. As a result of the decreased pro-
duction of feather money, the *Myzomela
cardinalis* population has been increas-
ing; the snarers can take birds more
easily and in more accessible places and
they would be willing to work for the
[287] old rates. But the labor involved in mak-
ing platelets and binding new currency
has not diminished. Like skilled artisans
anywhere, the specialists in these proc-
esses prefer to charge more and work
less. In pricing their labor they are
mindful not only of today's high market
but also of the fact that the value of
their product in Australian money is
likely to be even greater as time passes.
As a result the production of feather
currency has now fallen behind even
the currently reduced demand. As the
"bad" Australian money drives out the
"good" red-feather currency in accord-
ance with Gresham's law, a simple
society in the South Seas is experiencing
a monetary crisis familiar to many more
sophisticated economies.

[p 104]